

# NEWS



## Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. CONGRESSMAN

13th District  
Michigan

1531 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2261

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, October 4, 1982

contact: Bert Hammond  
(202) 225-2261

### CONGRESSMEN CROCKETT AND DYMALLY SHARPLY CRITICIZE SALE OF SHOCK BATONS AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO SOUTH AFRICA

Washington, D.C. -- In a joint letter to Malcolm Baldrige, the Secretary of Commerce, Congressmen George Crockett (D-Michigan) and Merv Dymally (D-California) expressed their opposition to, and outrage at, the recent decision of the Commerce Department to issue an export license for the sale of 2,500 shock batons to South Africa.

The Congressmen also noted with extreme displeasure that the Commerce Department is reportedly urging the Administration to reconsider the ban on the sale to South Africa of a hot isostatic press, which can be used for the development of nuclear technology. These actions, the Congressmen state in their letter, "are further manifestations of this Administration's growing cordiality with a country that abuses the most basic human rights of 22 million Blacks, sanctions an increasingly vigorous policy of racial apartheid, and demonstrates its flagrant disregard for international law by its illegal occupation of Namibia."

"Given those realities," the letter continues, "we find it utterly incomprehensible that the Department of Commerce has chosen to issue an export license for the sale of crime control equipment to a country that, in contravention of Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, has engaged "in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights."

On the matter of the proposed sale by the Department of a hot isostatic press to South Africa, the letter to the Secretary recalls that in the past the United States has appreciated the potential for misuse of this item and has therefore denied requests for licenses for its export. In the case of South Africa, the potential for misuse is even greater. To underscore this possibility, Congressmen Crockett and Dymally note that South Africa "is not even a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has announced its intention of marketing a weapons system it developed with the aid of data obtained from an American company in contravention of the U.N. Arms Embargo of 1963."

Congressmen Crockett and Dymally, who are the two Black members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, contend that these actions of the Commerce Department will have serious adverse foreign policy consequences vis-a-vis this country's relations with other African nations and that the gravity of these actions deserves a complete accounting by the Commerce Department.